

**State of Wisconsin/Department of Transportation  
RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING: March 31, 2006**

**Project ID:** 0092-05-13

**Project Title:** Impact of Railcar Weight Changes on Wisconsin Bridges

**Approved Starting Date (Contract Date):** July 1, 2005 (Consultant Contract Signed September 7, 2005)

**Estimated Completion Date:** May 30, 2006

**Primary Investigator:** Westbrook Engineering

**WisDOT Technical Contact:** James Bolitho, RHS

**Administrative Contact:** Frank Huntington, RHS

**Project Description:** Railroad car weight limits are increasing from 263,000 pounds to 286,000 and in some cases 315,000. Of concern with this increase is the ability of state owned railroad system infrastructure to handle the heavier loads. A primary factor in determining the infrastructure capability is the capability of the system bridges. Under this study the consultant will gather data on the condition of a sample of Wisconsin railroad bridges. Through on site inspections, the consultant will determine which bridges and how many in the sample need rehabilitation or maintenance. A cost estimate will be developed for the work identified. This estimate can be extrapolated to reach a system wide cost estimate.

The resulting information can be used in budget development and project prioritization.

**Project Cost:** \$ 99,999

**Expenditures for current quarter:** \$0

**Total Expenditures to date:** \$30,000

**Percent Complete:** 30% of cost for consultant. 85% actual work completed. (We have not received a consultant's bill since the end of 2005).

**Progress This Quarter:** (Includes project committee meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.)

As of the end of March 2006 100% of the on-site inspections are complete, and the on-site inspection report is complete. The bridge ratings for all the structures is 100% complete and are being reviewed by the consultants at this time. The final draft of the report has been written and is being reviewed by the consultants for content and completeness. The draft final report will be provided to WDOT staff for review by the end of April. The consultant has reports that no significant unexpected conditions have been found.

**Work Next Quarter:** (Includes project committee meetings, work plan status, contract status, significant progress, etc.)

The draft final report will be completed and reviewed by consultant. It will then be provided to WDOT staff for review and comment. WDOT and consultant staff will meet to discuss results of the draft final report and any changes will be made before the final report is prepared.

**Circumstances Affecting Progress/Budget:**

**Please insert or attach Gantt Chart.**

The project is on schedule according to the attached Gantt Chart.